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# LEGISLATURE COMMITS TO FUNDING FOR STUDENTS COME FIRST, TEACHER PAY TO INCREASE

BOISE – Both Houses of the Idaho Legislature today passed House Bill 698, an important education funding compromise bill. HB 698 cancels funding shifts from the school salary budget that were scheduled to occur over the next two years under Idaho's Students Come First education reforms. Those shifts had already been avoided in Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's public schools budget for the coming school year, FY2013. Now future shifts have been cancelled altogether.

The bill also declares key elements of the Students Come First reforms to be funding priorities if the public school budget appropriation increases in the future, and it accelerates the rate at which beginning teacher salaries will increase in the future.

"The bill builds upon my budget and fully funds all the provisions of Students Come First this year and in the future. Here's what it means: average teacher pay in Idaho will go up by over \$2,000 this year, and every student and all teachers will have access to technology no matter where they live in Idaho—paid for with additional resources," said Idaho Superintendent Tom Luna.

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